BLEASE STATES POSITION ON THE PRIMARY SYSTEM

Stands By the Bridge That Carried Him Over and Says That Not He But His Enemies Would Have De-

bauched the Electorate.

legislature, is of interest. Following are his observations:

The Primary System.

Many years ago some of the counties of South Carolina adopted a system of primary elections, which system provided for the selection of candidates among the white people for the Democratic nominees, for the purpose of avoiding a division among the white people in order to keep the negro vote from becoming a factor in the politics of this State. Many years before that the eight-box law had been in use, and it had been successful in depriving the negro of participation even in the general elections, except to a limited number.
To go through the entire history o

To go through the entire history of this matter might be very interesting to those who know nothing or little of it, and yet it might somewhat reveal a condition of affairs which it might be as well to let be forgotten. Later the State Democracy adopted this primary election-system for the pur-pose of nominating candidates for all State and county offices. Just a short State and county offices. Just a short time afterwards the Democracy of State adopted it for the selection of candidates for Congress and the United States Senate.

The last convention for the nomi-nation of a Governor and State officials was when Governor John Peter Edchardson was nominated for his second term. Then came the struggle of the Reform party in 1890. The of the Reform party in 1890. The then up to the present would be very interesting reading, but I presume it interesting reading, but I presume it is unnecessary to give it here. Howover, it seems that this system was
perfectly satisfactory when Governors,
Tillman, Evans, Ellerbe and McSweeney were elected, and it reached
its height in the eyes of many people—
especially certain newspaper editors—
who are now condemning it, and
gave most splendid satisfaction to
these distinguished gentlemen, when
Governor Herward and Ansel were Governor Heyward and Ansel were

Nothing was heard of its being un-matisfactory to this great element of our pec, sell when "Gen. Joseph H. Harle was elected to the United States Senate, and when many Congreesmen and many State officials

But, alas, the campaign of 1912

When that campaign came along the then Governor of South Carolina, on the 8th day of July, 1912, issued a proclamation which read as foi-

(This proclamation offered a reword of \$100 for the first five convic-tions of violation of the State law tions of violation of the State law making it a misdemeanor to secure votes by threats, intimidation, or payment, delivery or promise of money or other articles of value.")

And in his opening speech at Sum-ter, he said: "After reading the sections of the statute in regard to fraud in elec-tions, Governor Blease said: "And I call upon all of my friends

"And I call upon all of my friends to see that any person who attempts to see that any person who attempts to buy votes in this primary, or who intimidates voters by threats of otherwise, be immediately prosecuted, again stand with the majority, for and If you need any assistance in the prosecution of the case, I promise you, as Governor of this State, to formally it, because I believe he a fair, needs amending—we have law enough assistance and representations of the law that needs amending—we have law enough the needs amending—we have law enough the needs amending the needs the needs amending the nee aquare election, and propose so far in my power, to see that it is held for all the offices of our State. You, my tellew citizens, watch these two be what they may, the people of my State will be forced to my Cole L. Blease did his part."

Hease did his pert."

But when this primary election was held in August, 1912, great charges of fraud were brought, and these "holier than thou" lords of Domocracy, the editors and some others—all "great guardhins" of South Carolina's primaries, who were de-feated and whipped but of their boots, feated and whilpped but of their boots, with all their money and obscavered and trickery, all at once discovered they were whilpped, all they could holler was fraud and large a corrupt system and was horzbile to contemplate. Yet it was the same primary system that nominated their Heyward and their Ansel—the same men participated in it—and the same primary system which had man Same or Earle to Washington against former Governor to the property of the men who try to bribe voters, prosecute the men who to the property at the ballot have.

Was hington against former doverwho compile perjairy at this ballot have.

Why did it become to theroughly corrupt all at once, and so such an integrations system? Was it simply because Bleabe had whipped the "aristophere and those who thought that they owned the government or was it because and in Columbia, and the law you need: and this how, gentlemen, is hypocrisy of the meanest, lowest type; it is the hollering of "stop, thief", when the hollering of "stop, thief", when the hollering of "stop, thief", when the hollering of the first the hollering of the meanest, lowest type; it is the hollering of "stop, thief", when t

As the paramount issue in the com-, ing got up by? Why did Blease's op ing State campaign may be the pro- ponent need such a enormous camposed changes in the primary system paign fund? Was it to pay his camof elections, Governor Blease's posi- paign expenses around over South tion, as stated in his message to the Carolina? Was it to pay his son's expenses in traveling with him and car-rying his books? Was it to pay the legitimate expenses of his campaign manager? What was it for? Who was to use it, and for what purpose? Why did the railroads make large contributions to Blease's opponents campaign fund? Why did certain cotton mill presidents make such large contributions to Blease's op-ponents's campaign fund? Had any candidate in South Carolina ever be fore needed a campaign fund such as was raised against Blease? Did Tillman use it, or Evans, Ellerbe, Mc-Sweeney, Heyward, Ansel or Blease? Did General Earle use it? why this powerful compaign contri-bution for the primary of 1912? It that primary was corrupt, who corrupted it? If men voted in it who were not entitled to vote, who hauled them from North Carolina and from Georgia and paid their expenses?

It is plain to any thinking man, and it will be admitted by any honest man, that these large sums of money raised by contribution and handled at a central bureau in Columbia and by parties in other parts of the State, are what corrupted it, if it was corrupt, and only by the true manhood of the honest citizenship of South Carolina rising in its might and re-Carolina rising in its might and re-fusing to be bought and debauched by this crowd, was South Carolina saved from a corrupt government bought at the ballot box.

Now, who is responsible for this great cry of freed in the primaries? The Governor publicly stated on the State House steps, the night after the election, that the other side had stolen more votes and put them in the the ballot box than they knew what to do with. It his statement was a slander, why wasn't he prosecuted? Iff his statement was a slander, why was it that the committee of the State Executive Committee, a large majority of whom were composed of his hitterest opponents, after they had gone to Spartanburg and to Greenville and to Anderson and to Orangeburg, disbanded, gave up their investiga-tion, and specified off quietly and went into their little holes?

These charges of fraud and corrup-

tion are absolutely unworthy but in line with the source from which they come The man who introduced the resolution in the State Executive Committee charging the white people of this State with fraud and corruption in that election, pulled then the rope which rang the bell sounding his death knell throughout the Democratic party of this State. The partisan majority of the committee which took it up will find that it will take them years of hard, honest struggle to re-deem themselves in the eyes of the people of this State. Today the peo-ple are alive to the fact that these charges of fraud and perjury and cor-ruption have been made against them, the white people of South Carolina, and when the time comes, if men with the moral courage and the political backbone get upon the rostrum in this State and expose the nefariousness of those who made and who took up these charges, every one of them will be wiped from the face of the politi-

—but it is the enforcement of the law handed out money and whiskey, or my cellaw citizens, watch these two who in the future hand out money things; we now have a majority; we and whiskey. Prosecute the men who have the cattle won, and all that we try to buy voters. Prosecute the peohave the cattle won, and all that we have got to do is to see that we get a fair and honest showing. I cannot do it all; can only do my part; it is up to you to do yours. If the people are defeated, and the corporations and newspapers and the old ring take the vocations which they claim to charge of this government, the people will be the sufferers. The fault will not be "line. Let the consequences the what hey may, the people of my ful and mailedous lies upon the them for the Fatte, and to hing he most wil-ful and malicious lies upon the then Governor of their Commonwealth. Such men and their accessories are the men who attempted to corrupt the primary, and it was only by Blease exposing their schemes from the public stump that they were wbipped—by his showing up that they whipped—by his showing up that they had caused a shortage in the batiots that they had spent money and done everything that could be possibly Cone, to defeat a man—and then, when they were waipped, all they could holler was fraud, when every man in South Carolina who is honest and discont knows after was more fraud.

bribe-giver and the bribe-taker. And why such large contributions for Blease's opponent's campaign, once again, I ask. If people think these contributions were not asked for or not given, names can be given.

Now, who had the control of the State Democratic Convention? The men opposed to Governor Blease. Who had control of nearly every County Executive Committee in the Who, had the absolute control, by a large majority, of the State Executive Committee? Who appointed the managers of election throughout the State? When Governor Blease wrote to the Chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee and Commi asked to have one manager at each precinct, his request was declined. When similar requests were made of the Chairmen of the County Executime Committees, it was declined his friends. The County Executive Committee, nearly all of which were anti-Blease, appointed anti-Blease mana gers all over the countles, and these anti-Blease managers were in the large majority all over the State-a majority of two-thirds or more were anti-administration men The ballots were put in the Loxes which the anti-administration men had control of, the anti-administration men took them off to one side and counted them and announced so many Jones and so many for Blease. The returns were sent to the County Executive Committees, and the County Executive Committee almost overwhelmingly Executive Committees, composed Blease men, tabulated them and sent them to the State Committee, and the State Committee met and tabulated them and announced the result. Now, how in the name of common sense with all the election machinery anti-Blease-how in the name of common sense, I repeat, could the Blease men have committed fraud? There-fore, if there was fraud, as these edi-tors and other are now loudly pro-claiming there was, who committed it? The answer is plain-the anti-Blease men, because they had all the machinery in their hands. They say there was fraud. Now, I say, let that be as it may, if there was fraud who committed it, when they had the managers, the county committees and the State Committee?

No. gentlemen, it is but the cry of the defeated. Instead of being brave, true Carolinians, and saying, "We have made our fight and lost," they, like the cowards they are, criage up-on their knees and holler fraud, forgetting that they were the ones who were in charge of the election machinery, and that if there was fraud they and their friends were the ones

Now, gentlemen, what we want is honest elections. They speak of us-ing money. God knows the present ing money. God knows the present Governor has never had any to use. He practiced law at the Newberry bar, and, he is proud to say, had an exceptionally fine practice on both sides of the court. He made a good living, and managed to save some money. But not one nickle of it has he ever used to corrupt a voter; not one dollar of it has he ever used or has any of his friends ever done so, to his knowledge, and certainly if the have ever done so, they did not consult him before, nor have they

informed him afterwards.

What we need is to enforce the laws we have strictly to the letter. Let every white man in South Carolina, of legal age, vote in the primaries, and if one comes from another State into this State and votes, or goes from one county into anothe and votes ilegally, let the men whom he votes for, as well as the men whom he votes against see to it that he is prosecuted to the full extent of the law. If one man offers to buy the vote of another, let the latter prose-cute to the full extent of the law the man who offers the bribe, and if the man takes the bribe, prosecute him. Enforce the laws we have. Let honesty and square dealing begin with the State Executive Committee. and let it be followed by the county committees and kept up by the managers of election. We have all the law we need; we have all the honor we need in South Carolina to enforce that law. And it comes with ill grace from that or. 4 which had control of all the election machinery, to charge fraud, when they and their friends were the only ones who sould have committed any fraud.

I am opposed to any change in the primary system. believe in honest elections, and I i leve in letting every white man participate in the primary who is c lible to vote under the rules of t Democratic party Whenever we disprive the white peo-ple of the right to vote, or any large number of the northear right to vote, we wil sreak up the primary system, bee: those who are qualifled want to right to vote, and they should have it, and they do not propose to be put, by any party of men, on an equal footing with a free ne-

(The Covernor then inserts as part of his message, his sidress to the people of South Carolina, issued on the 19th of September, 1912, t campaign and explained from his viewpoint the big vote of that year. He adds also the address he issued on Oct. 26, 1912, urging the people to roll up a big vote for the Democratic party. State, National und county, sid he says he reproduces this "in view of certain recent events".)

GARDEN SEED-

Onion Sets; English Peas; Beans; Onion Sets; English Pess; Beans; Victs.

Tomntoes; Egyplant; Sugar Corn; I respectfully exit your attention once again to the evil of the sale and use of cocaine and such like drugs, and to the smoking of cigarettes by boys under the age of sixtoen years. In other words, gentlemen, I propose to do my daily, no matter who want from bulk stock—that's our business—the Seed Business.

Farman Smith—The Seedsman.

PHONE 464.

I beg to reiterate the following recommendations contained in my annual message to you in 1913, in

son College to Calhoun University. That you abolish the Board of Pardons, or pay a sufficient salary for the work to be done.

That you take some action in regard to the cotton mill mergers in this State, and the Carolina Public Service Corporation, and generally in regard to trusts and combinations.

That you take action to prohibit any town, city or county, or the State from giving any exclusive rights pfivileges or franchises to any cor poration or individual.

That you require all corporations in this State using the water power of the State to pay a tax or license therefor.

That you pass an Act reducing the legal rate of interest in this State to six per cent. Figures recently compiled by the Agricultural Department of the Government show the enormous amount of interest which the South is paying, in compar, son with the rate in the East and North, steadily draining the pockets of our people, and particularly the farmers. This is a motter, gentlemen, of vital importance, and it demands your at-tention. Securities in South Carolina-particularly farm lands-are as good as can be had in the world, and it is simply oppression—nothing short of it—which takes from the pockets of our people an average interest of more than eight per cent... when other States are paying, some of them, between five and six. That you prohibit links from

charging customers exchange drafts or checks.

That you prohibit express com-panies from charging for returning money collected on C. O. D. pack-

That you pass a flat two-cent pas-senger rate on all railroads in this State.

That you take some action in regard to the concealed weapon law.

That you make it a misdemeanor for any newspaper editor, reporter or correspondent to promulgate, make or publish false reports of the speech of any person who is a candidate for any county, State or National office, and that you page an act to the ef-fect that when any newspaper, pub-lishes a statement in regard to any person that is injurious, that when that person sends to the paper a cor-rection of said seport, the editor or manager of the maper he required to publish said correction in the same column of the same page, and win as large beadlines, as the original arti-

cle appeared wherein the person was misquited or misrepresented.

That you submit to the people such constitutional amendment or amend-ments he may be necessary to provide for the election of Judges by the peo-

I beg to reiterate the following recommendations contained in my annual message to you in 1912, in which message you will find my views fully expressed, with my rea-

ons therefor:
That you investigate our institutions of higher learning, particularly
with regard to the amount of their expenditures.

That you look into the matter of the too great amount being paid for water and lights by the State.

That you look into the matter of the too great amount being paid to the Charles Indians. the Catawba Indians.
That you investigate into the mat-

ter of purchase for State institutions. and that you provide some means all these purchases being made such manner as to see the lower prices which should be had by purchas-

es which should be had by suremaing them in bulk upon a centract including all the institutions.

That you have one of your committee investigate carefully the aunting clubs and other corporations of foreigners located in this State to see if they are violating the Constitution and Section 2689. Volume I, of the

That you pass some Act which would have the effect of disbanding negro lodges.

That you pass an Act prohibiting any white person from teaching in negro schools or from teaching nagro children. That you provide for experia

That you provide for experts of the highest character and ability, to make a thorough investigation into and check up all youthers, bonds, books and other papers, in all the

State offices.

I beg to reterate the following recommendations contained in all in augural address of 1911.

Liberal support of our Confederate Veterans. Liberal but not extravagant appro-priations for our State institutions of

rhat you amend the law so that white convicts will not be placed in the same camps and worked along in the same squade with negro con-

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REAL ESTATE DEAL MAKES NEW RECORD.

Big Property Transaction Takes Place in Greenwood-New

Home For Bank

Greenwood.-The largest real es tate transfer in the history of Green-wood was the purchase by the Peo-ples Trust Company last week of the three story fireproof office building owned by F. B. Grier and J. B. Park also the two story brick store adjoining the office building, occupied by F. B. Cobb and the large two story brick store on Maxwell avenue own ed by Messrs. Grier and Park, occu pied by the Hartzog-Hagood Vehicle and Livestock company. The People Trust company is a holding and trus concern organized some time ago concern organized some time ago Its officers are B. F. McKeller presi dent; Charles E. Klugh, secretary and treasurer. The directors are: F B. Grier J. B. Park, B. F. McKellar E. Z. Seymour and Charles E. Klugh The Peoples bank will occupy as a banking room the corner room on the first floor of the office building and this is being handsomely fitted up now with the latest banking fixtures. The bank will move in about January 15

GIFT FOR HOSPITAL.

William H. Bailey Gives \$5,000 to Greenwood Institution.

Greenwood.-William H. Bailey of Greenwood has made a gift of \$5,000 to the Greenwood hospital making it possible to wipe out the indebtedness of this institution. Mr. Bailey inti-mated his intention to do this some time ago to the ladies who have la-bored so long and so earnestly to es tablish the hospital and some days ago he told them he wished to make the gift now. The hospital had a debt of \$5,000 on its building and the of mr. Duney makes it free debt. The only condition attached to the gift by Mr. Bailey is that the place shall glways be used as a hospital. In case the hospital is abandoned sum given by him to revert to estate. The Greenwood hospital has been in operation now almost three years and has been of very great service to the community and adjoining sections. It was fostered from its beginning by a association of ladies. Mrs. E. D. Andrews is president of

RICHMOND'S BANKS

Actively at Work For the Regional Reserve

Richmond, Va.-Richmond bankers, who are on tour of the Carolinas in an effort to enlist support for the move-ment to have Richmond designated as the location of a federal reserve bank, held a meeting in Raleigh tonight and will pursue the campsigu in other cities during the next week. The point is being emphasized that

Richmond is not trying to be named over Atlants, the bankers asserting that the natural bank flow is East-ward, and they are opposing any attempt to divert it.
Virginia and North Carolina cities

have strongly endorsed Richmond, and the delegation in the field will proceed early next week to South Caro-

TRAINMAN IS MILLED

Richard Soudley, Jr., Meets Instant Death at Abbeville

Abberille .- Richard Sondley was crushed to death last night in the Scaboard Air Line yards here. He was a flagma nfor the company and vas on his way to go out his rus, when attempting to avoid one train he stepped directly in front of an engine backing up to the roundhouse. He was instantly killed. He was just 23 years of age, and had been working for the Saeboard only six months. His sudden death was a great shock His sudden death was a great shock to this community. The funeral was held this afternoon at 3 o'clock, and burial at Long Cane cometery in the family plot, His father, County Auditor Richard Sondley, his mother, one brother and one sister, Mrs. A. L. Har-vin, survive him.

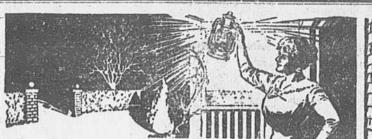
SPENT MANY MILLIONS.

Seven Big Powers Blew \$797,948,900 on Navies

Washington .- Just \$797,948,900 wa ended last year in construction by the seven naval powers of the world, the United States standing second in the list, with appropriations of \$140,-800,643, Great Britain spent \$225,713,-489; Germany \$111,270,025; Japan, \$48,105,151.

248,105,151.

These fects appeared in the navy year book for 1912. Great Britain held her place as the Brst naval power with 2,531,591 tonese; Germany ranks second with a tonage of 1,228,208; the United States is third with 921,844 tons; France fourth with 878,155, and Japan fifth with 702,039.



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